

THE WOMEN'S WORLD

"An angel robed in spotless white,
Bent down and kissed the sleeping
night;
Night woke to blush; the spirit was
gone;
Men saw the blush and called it
Dawn."

DUNBAR.

This is the season when club work again takes possession of minds interested in this form of activity; and from the amount of good work accomplished in the past, it is earnestly hoped that an ever increasing number will be encouraged to develop some thing of value to a community. Reading clubs, musical clubs, art clubs, physical culture clubs, mothers' unions, sewing circles, domestic science classes, all these and many other subjects suggest themselves as means by which we may benefit not only ourselves but the world around us.

The reading club is always in order, and while there are some who do a vast amount of valuable reading without any such impelling force as a club (literally or figuratively, as you like it), there are others who work better under this stimulus; and among such a variety of books well worth studying, as now exist, it is possible to furnish material adapted to any degree of mentality.

"Twelfth Night," another interesting article intended for these columns may, and surely will indicate to some who may be initiating a reading circle how to create enthusiasm in the work and how to make it effective as a means of general culture.

INFLUENCE OF GOOD WOMEN—
Read before the National Association of Colored Educators at Buffalo, N. Y. (By Katherine D. Tillman.)

We present to our readers this week through the courtesy of Mrs. Katherine D. Tillman, of Chicago, the following excellent paper, read by that brilliant little woman before the National Association of Colored Educators during the session of this organization in Buffalo:

Woman is the subject of my story. Woman and her influence when exerted for good. An inexhaustible subject in reality for the influence of a good woman is one of those measureless, timeless things that like the poet's brook, "goes on forever."

In this age of feverish scheming and excessive feminine activity, when women are engaged in so many different pursuits of life, that a half century ago were deemed entirely out of her sphere, we find so many different types of women that we are likely to become bewildered in our selection of the finest type or the type most suitable as a model.

We have the ambitious society woman who in order to keep in the lead in social life, often sacrifices principles that are dearer than life itself, to obtain means to shine as society's queen. Well-gowned, good to look upon, tactful and splendid entertainer that she is, she is not worthy to be our model for her house is built upon a sandy foundation, which the winds of time will surely destroy.

Closely related to our sister of the smart set is the scientific or professional woman who lays her all upon the altar of science and stops at no obstacle that arises between her and her coveted position, even though that obstacle be a sacred principle God implanted in her woman's heart. She arises to heights of fame, is honored, feted and admired, but she too has failed as a model, and can only have the distinction due to a woman of talent. The principle involved may have been loyalty to a friend, honesty of purpose, or worse still, her fair name—whatever it was—her opportunity is past to be the model for true women to follow.

The club woman comes forward for inspection, with her business like appearance, knowledge, real or assumed, of parliamentary rules; her superior knowledge of the burning problem of

the day, and her ability to manage caucuses prior to the quarterly or annual election of club officers, her zealous devotion to the work of her club, which sometimes exceeds her devotion to home and church duties; this handsome and interesting woman who can keep you buttonholed for hours expatiating upon the many merits of her own particular club and the corresponding demerits of all others, we might be won by her eloquent speech to choose her as the model type did not the club skeleton disclose the secret of numerous petty jealousies, narrowed views, and a determined sort of selfishness that too often makes club life a bed of thorns to a loving peaceful soul.

And now we come to the religious woman, pronouncedly so, and of course you expect me to hold her up as the model type of woman, but I cannot, for religiousness is not always synonymous with religion, and the woman who makes the strongest profession and looks the most devout in appearance is not always the most lovable woman of your acquaintance. It sometimes happens that a woman who is a prominent church worker, an active participant in prayer meetings and in all forms of Christian work is so distinctly disagreeable, so hard to be understood and to get along with, that people who are not professors of religion hesitate about becoming so on the account of this woman who has spoiled all of her beautiful work, all of her acts of sacrifice by failing to have the Christian charity—or love which St. Paul says is greater than either faith or hope. Really I think the religious type of woman is the most trying of all. You expect so much learning on the fair Christ for strength, diffusing about her an atmosphere sweeter than the breath of a cluster of violets blessing all lives that come into contact with hers as the dew drops refresh the grass and flowers, this is the model type of woman. And this kind of woman, the good woman, is the woman whose personality and whose influence is so apt to be overlooked and underestimated in these days of sharp competition between beauty and brains or between woman's lower and higher self.

For woman as well as man possesses the dual nature—the two parts of her being the animal and the divine that are each ever struggling for the ascendancy, and it depends upon her cultivation of the divine nature as to whether she will have an influence for good.

"Like begets like," a woman whose thoughts, aims and actions are pure will have a saving influence upon the men and women she meets. Such women are the salt of society. Everybody feels safe with them, all breathe easier in their presence. God set His seal of commendation upon good women when He gave to the world Jesus, His only son through the womanhood of a girl who was known everywhere, simple as a good, pure girl.

What the young girl standing upon the threshold of life needs to consider above all else, is the choice of a type or model. Dazzled by the false tinsel and show of sin, clad in alluring garments, sweetness and fragrance out of a life that is professedly an imitation of that of the blessed Christ, and when you hear harsh words or slander or see actions that are unchristlike, your faith is apt to weaken both in the person and in the thing personated.

In all of the lines that I have indicated, social, scientific, philanthropic and religious, the women of today are playing leading parts. The newspapers teem with the sensational doings of the idle-born, who while away life's precious hours pleasure seeking. The brainy women write books or do other things of consequence and for a time their names are in everybody's mouths.

The philanthropist or club woman divides her time between club work and club ambitions, and also wins for herself a name, and the religious wo-

man continues her work in the church until like Dorcas she has reared unto her memory a monument of good works, but to my mind neither of these women are worthy to be considered the model type of woman. Who shall be the model? Simply the good woman! She may belong to either or none of the four classes mentioned, she may be a somebody or a nobody in the estimation of the world, but let her be a good woman and her influence shall be more helpful than all of the others put together.

The good woman, pure in word and deed and often seated resplendent in high places, she may look from the woman who is noted for nothing but goodness to other more brilliant types, but if she desires an influence that will "outlast the stars," let her beware of the woman who to achieve eminence of any sort has sacrificed goodness and let her choose a good woman as the foundation of her life's happiness and success. In their desire to prove themselves the equals of men, women often rush headlong into the doubtful, the dangerous, the bad, and if they escape the actual stain of sin upon their own lives, their influence for good is so impaired that they are powerless to help others.

If I were to define a good woman I think I should say a good woman is a woman who lives up to the highest that she knows. It was Guinevere's wail after her sin with Launcelot, and Arthur's renunciation of her, that she should have loved the highest. And this every woman regrets who loses her good influence through imprudence or neglect. Like Esau she has thrown away a precious birthright for a mess of pottage.

How much the world owes to the influence of good women. How common

Correspondence, cuts of noted women, sketches, etc., solicited. All matter intended for these columns must be sent to the office of the Department Editor.

Address
J. SILONE YATES,
President National Association of
Colored Women, 2122 Tracy Ave.,
Kansas City, Mo.

(Continued on page 5.)

FREDERICK
DOUGLASS
WATCH

Every well regulated citizen ought to have a watch. It matters not whether he be white or black, Jew or Gentile, Catholic or Protestant, the man to whom time is an object needs a "ticker" to guide his movements. So then, in the first place, everybody get a watch. In the second place, get a good watch. In the third place, get it at a rock bottom price.

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